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JUNE 14, 2021 BY RONNIE

Ontario Pharmacists Association: Getting Handouts From Ford, As They Push Bills 160/132

Melissa Lantsman helped get Doug Ford elected in 2018. She lists her position as the “War Room Director & Spokesperson” for the campaign. She left shortly after, and began lobbying the very Government she helped install. There are others who are in similar positions, as this topic has been addressed before.

The organization of interest here is the Ontario Pharmacists Association. They were involved in 2 pieces of legislation.

The first, Bill 160, was passed by the Wynne Government but never implemented. It would have forced disclosure of financial interests of doctors who received money to push certain

drugs. While passed in Parliament, it was never given Royal Proclamation, and hence, has no legal effect. This was covered previously.

The second, Bill 132, repealed annual disclosure requirements for the Health Minister concerning drug programs. These reports were to be made publicly available. More on this later.

Search Results

Lobbyist	Last Amendment Date	Client Name	Company/Organization	Lobbyist Type
Jonathan Sampson	03/26/2021	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Enterprise Canada	Consultant Lobbyist
Melissa Lantsman	12/09/2020	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Enterprise Canada	Consultant Lobbyist
Katie Heelis	11/09/2020	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Enterprise	Consultant Lobbyist
Abid Malik	12/02/2019	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Sussex Strategy Group	Consultant Lobbyist
Morvarid Rohani	10/31/2017	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Sussex Strategy Group	Consultant Lobbyist
Carly Martin	01/11/2017	Ontario Pharmacists Association	Sussex Strategy Group	Consultant Lobbyist

Name of Government or Government Agency	Amount (please enter numerical value
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care	$190,604.00

Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010

Name of Government or Government Agency	Amount (please enter numerical value
Ministry of Health	$381,200.00

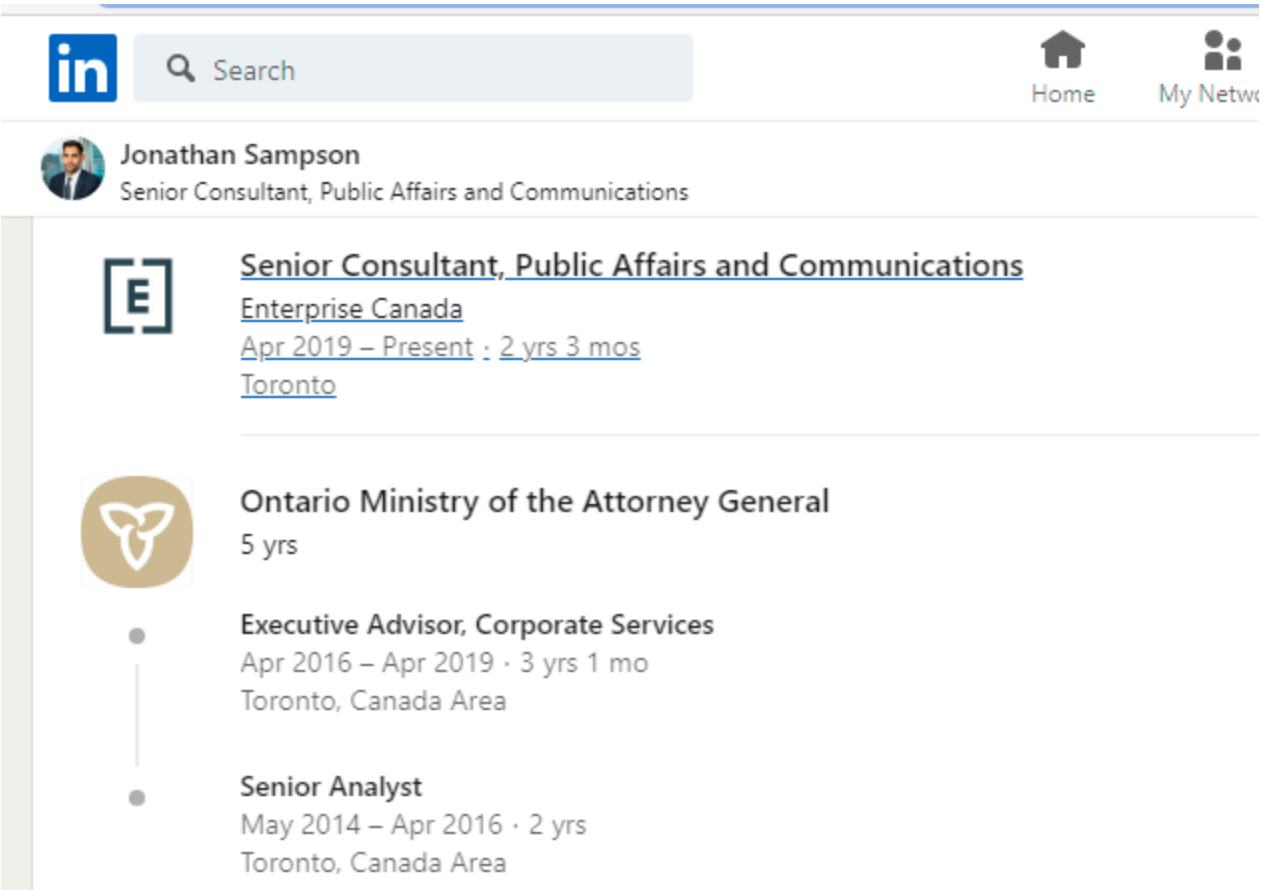
Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010

In recent years, there have been 6 documented meetings between the Ontario Government (both Liberal and Conservative Administrations), and the Ontario Pharmacists Association.

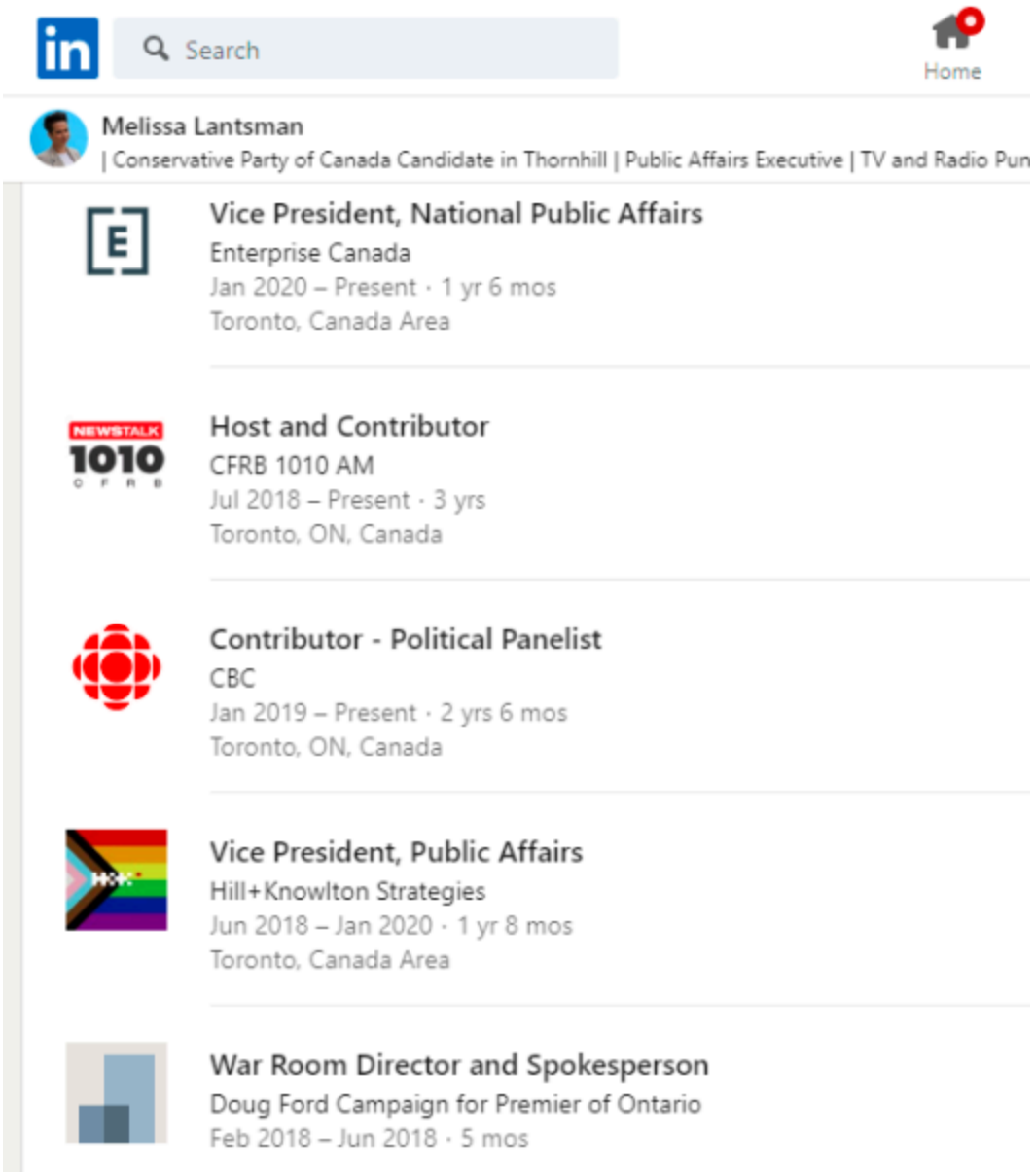
According to the Registry, the OPA has also been receiving grants from the Government. This included $190,604 in the fiscal year of 2018, and another $381,200 in 2020.

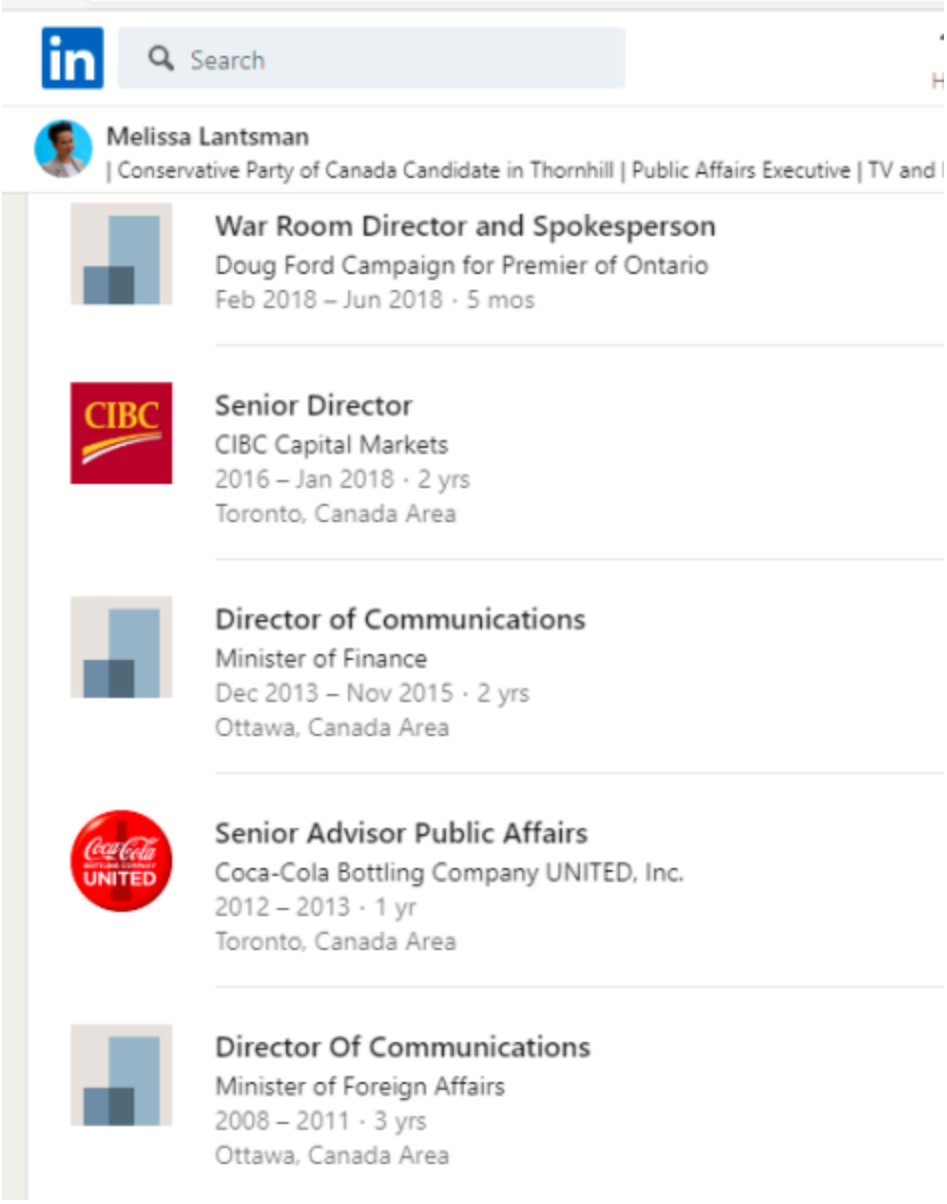
- Jonathan Sampson
- Melissa Lantsman
- Katie Heelis
- Abid Malik
- Morvarid Rohani
- Carly Martin

Now, who are these people?


Search
Home
My Netw
Jonathan Sampson
Senior Consultant, Public Affairs and Communications
Senior Consultant, Public Affairs and Communications
Enterprise Canada
Apr 2019 – Present · 2 yrs 3 mos
Toronto
Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General
5 yrs
Executive Advisor, Corporate Services
Apr 2016 – Apr 2019 · 3 yrs 1 mo
Toronto, Canada Area
Senior Analyst
May 2014 – Apr 2016 · 2 yrs
Toronto, Canada Area

Jonathan Sampson was a high ranking bureaucrat with the Office of the Attorney General in Ontario, under both the Wynne and Ford Governments. He then joined Sussex Strategy Group and became a lobbyist.


Search
Home
Melissa Lantsman
| Conservative Party of Canada Candidate in Thornhill | Public Affairs Executive | TV and Radio Pun
Vice President, National Public Affairs
Enterprise Canada
Jan 2020 – Present · 1 yr 6 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
Host and Contributor
CFRB 1010 AM
Jul 2018 – Present · 3 yrs
Toronto, ON, Canada
Contributor - Political Panelist
CBC
Jan 2019 – Present · 2 yrs 6 mos
Toronto, ON, Canada
Vice President, Public Affairs
Hill+Knowlton Strategies
Jun 2018 – Jan 2020 · 1 yr 8 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
War Room Director and Spokesperson
Doug Ford Campaign for Premier of Ontario
Feb 2018 – Jun 2018 · 5 mos


Search
Melissa Lantsman
| Conservative Party of Canada Candidate in Thornhill | Public Affairs Executive | TV and
War Room Director and Spokesperson
Doug Ford Campaign for Premier of Ontario
Feb 2018 – Jun 2018 · 5 mos
CIBC
Senior Director
CIBC Capital Markets
2016 – Jan 2018 · 2 yrs
Toronto, Canada Area
Director of Communications
Minister of Finance
Dec 2013 – Nov 2015 · 2 yrs
Ottawa, Canada Area
Coca-Cola UNITED
Senior Advisor Public Affairs
Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED, Inc.
2012 – 2013 · 1 yr
Toronto, Canada Area
Director Of Communications
Minister of Foreign Affairs
2008 – 2011 · 3 yrs
Ottawa, Canada Area

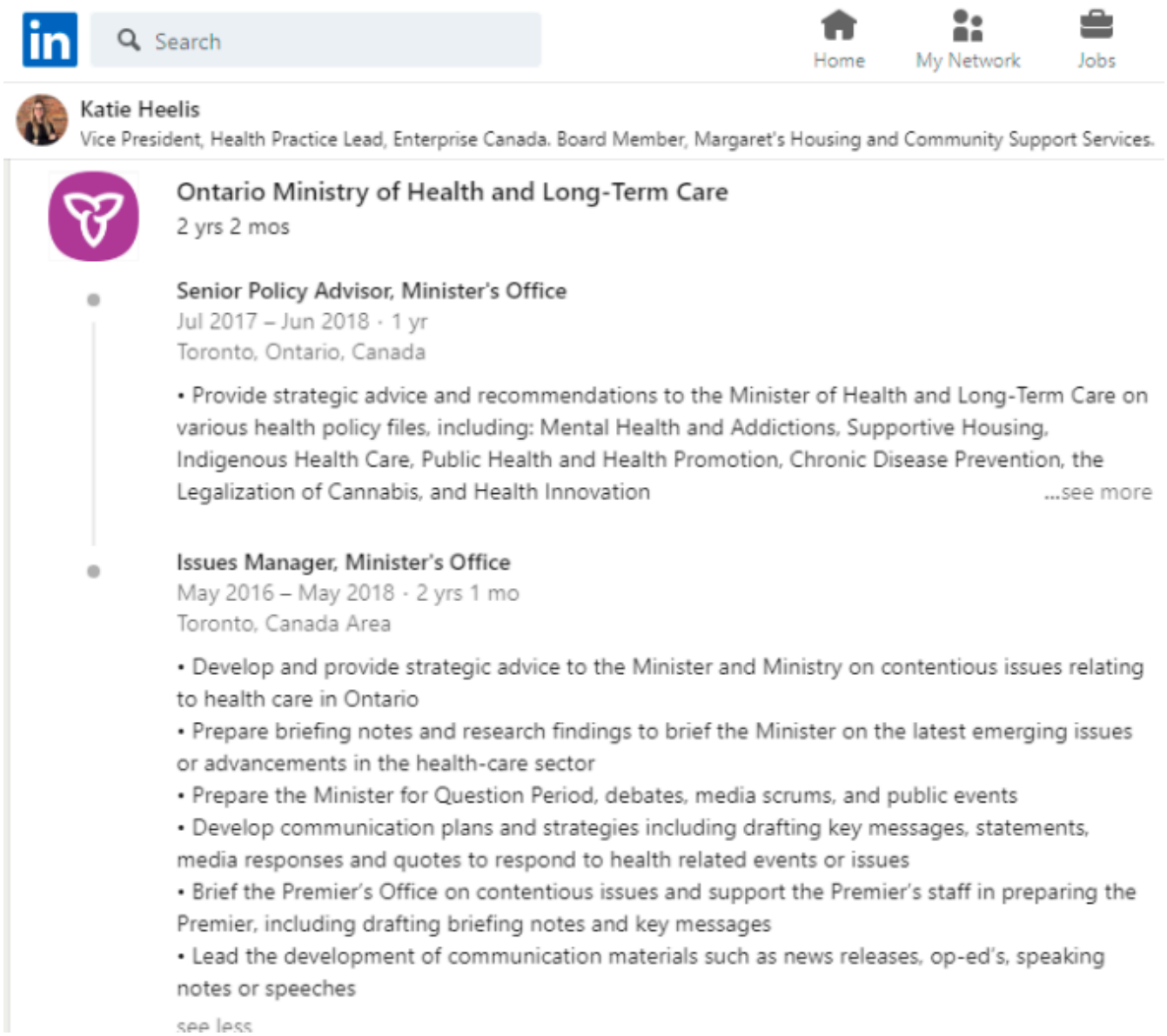
Melissa Lantsman is currently a Director at the Michael Garron Hospital. This is where Michael Warner, the infamous lockdown doctor, also works.

Lantsman spent 3 years as a spokeswoman for the Foreign Affairs Office of Canada, and another 2 in the Finance Ministry, before getting into Ontario politics. She helped get Doug Ford elected in 2018, and is now running to be a Federal Candidate in the next election, whenever that is.

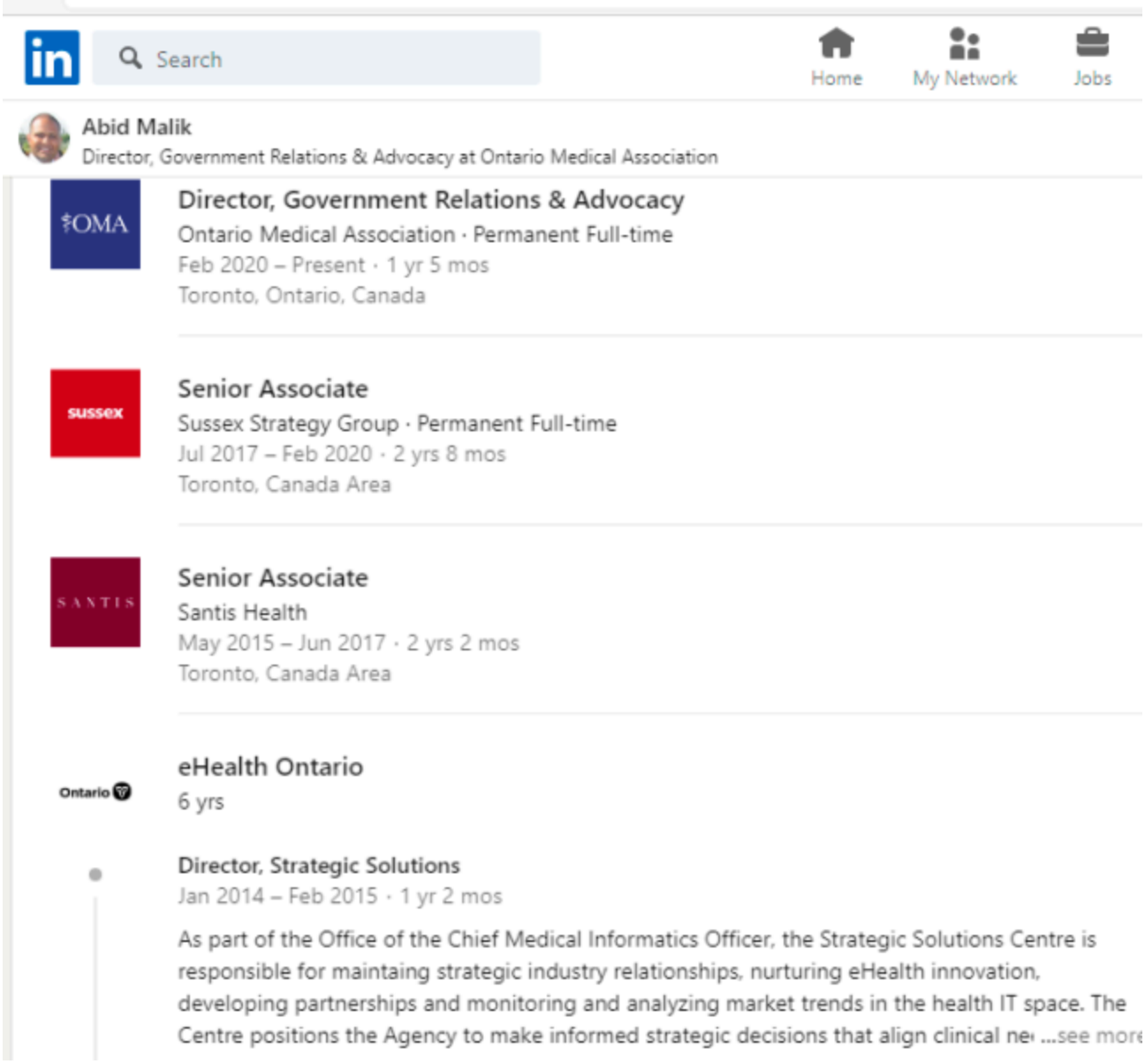
She was also one of several lobbyists for Walmart in 2020. She was trying to keep the retail giant open while others were allowed to die.

It doesn't appear that Lantsman's switching between politics and lobbying will be any issue. Amber Ruddy, the Secretary of the National Council of the CPC is an active pharma lobbyist.

Erin O'Toole used to be a lobbyist for Facebook.


Search
Home
My Network
Jobs
Katie Heelis
Vice President, Health Practice Lead, Enterprise Canada. Board Member, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services.
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
2 yrs 2 mos
Senior Policy Advisor, Minister's Office
Jul 2017 – Jun 2018 · 1 yr
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
• Provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on various health policy files, including: Mental Health and Addictions, Supportive Housing, Indigenous Health Care, Public Health and Health Promotion, Chronic Disease Prevention, the Legalization of Cannabis, and Health Innovation
...see more
Issues Manager, Minister's Office
May 2016 – May 2018 · 2 yrs 1 mo
Toronto, Canada Area
• Develop and provide strategic advice to the Minister and Ministry on contentious issues relating to health care in Ontario
• Prepare briefing notes and research findings to brief the Minister on the latest emerging issues or advancements in the health-care sector
• Prepare the Minister for Question Period, debates, media scrums, and public events
• Develop communication plans and strategies including drafting key messages, statements, media responses and quotes to respond to health related events or issues
• Brief the Premier's Office on contentious issues and support the Premier's staff in preparing the Premier, including drafting briefing notes and key messages
• Lead the development of communication materials such as news releases, op-ed's, speaking notes or speeches
see less

Katie Heelis used to be the "Issues Manager" for the Ontario Minister of Health, back under the regime of Kathleen Wynne. Afterwards, she became a lobbyist, taking on clients such as Shoppers Drug Mart.


Search
Home
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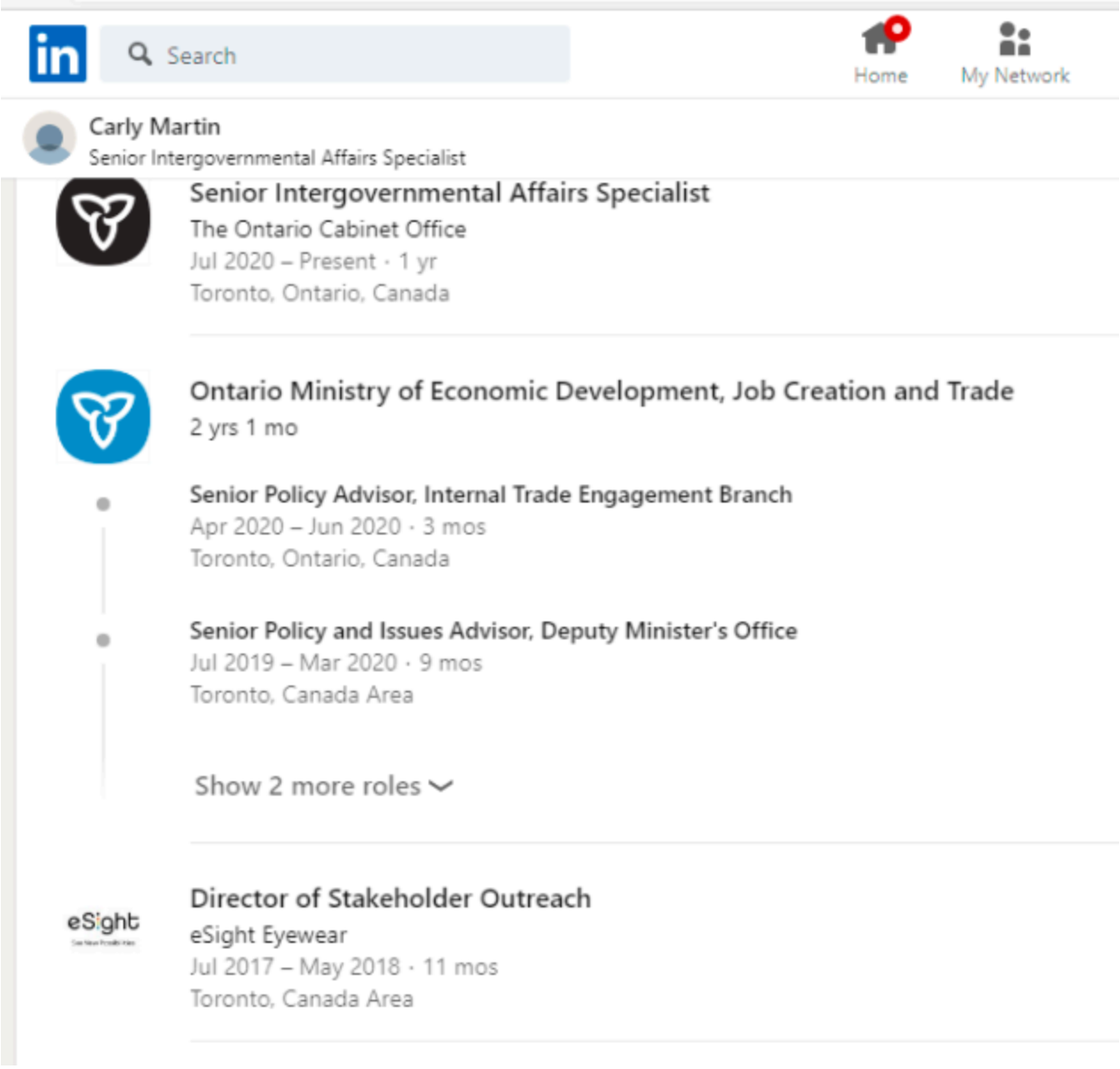
Abid Malik
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy at Ontario Medical Association
OMA
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy
Ontario Medical Association · Permanent Full-time
Feb 2020 – Present · 1 yr 5 mos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
sussex
Senior Associate
Sussex Strategy Group · Permanent Full-time
Jul 2017 – Feb 2020 · 2 yrs 8 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
SANTIS
Senior Associate
Santis Health
May 2015 – Jun 2017 · 2 yrs 2 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
Ontario
eHealth Ontario
6 yrs
Director, Strategic Solutions
Jan 2014 – Feb 2015 · 1 yr 2 mos
As part of the Office of the Chief Medical Informatics Officer, the Strategic Solutions Centre is responsible for maintaing strategic industry relationships, nurturing eHealth innovation, developing partnerships and monitoring and analyzing market trends in the health IT space. The Centre positions the Agency to make informed strategic decisions that align clinical ne ...see more

Abid Malik spent several years working for the Ministry of Health under the regimes of McGuinty and Wynne. He moved on to lobbying, and is now an official at the Ontario Medical Association.


Search
Home
My Network
Carly Martin
Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
The Ontario Cabinet Office
Jul 2020 – Present · 1 yr
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
2 yrs 1 mo
Senior Policy Advisor, Internal Trade Engagement Branch
Apr 2020 – Jun 2020 · 3 mos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Senior Policy and Issues Advisor, Deputy Minister's Office
Jul 2019 – Mar 2020 · 9 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
Show 2 more roles
eSight
Director of Stakeholder Outreach
eSight Eyewear
Jul 2017 – May 2018 · 11 mos
Toronto, Canada Area

Carly Martin sort of went the other way. She a lobbyist, and later came to work for the Ford Government. Since July 2020, she has worked in the Cabinet Office, and presumably has direct access to Ford.

Getting back to the issue of Bill 132, what were the effects of passing it?

SCHEDULE 11
Ministry of Health

Ontario Drug Benefit Act

1 Subsection 1.1 (3) of the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act* is repealed.

Bill 132 was an omnibus Bill (aren't they all?) but buried in Schedule 11 was the notice that a part of the Ontario Drug Benefit Act would be repealed. This isn't some minor thing, but has huge implications.

Lobbying Activity
Tell us about your current lobbying activity. Complete all that apply. You must choose at least one option:

Legislative proposal Yes

Describe your lobbying goal(s) in detail. What are you attempting to influence or accomplish as a result of your communications with Ontario public office holders?

OPA will be advocating for the ***removal of unnecessary regulatory burden in the pharmacy sector as defined as the goal through Bill 132***, Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019

Going through the records of the Lobby Registry, it's explicitly stated that this was a reason for speaking to Public Officials. There's no guesswork involved.

> Executive officer
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> .
>
> 1.1 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall appoint an executive officer for the Ontario public drug programs. 2006, c. 14, s. 7.
>
> .
>
> Functions and powers
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> .
>
> (2) Subject to this Act and the regulations, it is the function of the executive officer, and he or she has the power, to perform any functions or duties that he or she may have under this Act and the regulations, under the Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act and its

regulations and under any other Act or regulation, and without in any way restricting the generality of the foregoing,

.

(a) to administer the Ontario public drug programs;

(b) to keep, maintain and publish the Formulary;

(c) to make this Act apply in respect of the supplying of drugs that are not listed drug products as provided for in section 16;

(d) to designate products as listed drug products, listed substances and designated pharmaceutical products for the purposes of this Act, and to remove or modify those designations;

(e) to designate products as interchangeable with other products under the Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act, and to remove or modify those designations;

(f) to negotiate agreements with manufacturers of drug products, agree with manufacturers as to the drug benefit price of listed drug products, negotiate drug benefit prices for listed substances with suppliers, and set drug benefit prices for designated pharmaceutical products;

(g) to require any information that may or must be provided to the executive officer under this Act or the regulations or any other Act or regulation to be in a format that is satisfactory to the executive officer;

(h) to make payments under the Ontario public drug programs;

(i) to establish clinical criteria under section 23; and

(j) to pay operators of pharmacies for professional services, and to determine the amount of such payments subject to the prescribed conditions, if any. 2006, c. 14, s. 7.

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Report

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(3) In every year,

(a) the executive officer shall make a report in writing to the Minister concerning the Ontario drug programs; and

(b) the Minister shall publish the report within 30 days of receiving it. 2006, c. 14, s. 7

This is how the Ontario Drug Benefit Act used to look. See the archive. However, the passage of Bill 132 repealed 1.1(3) which would have forced annual reporting to the Health Minister.

Also noteworthy: those annual reports would have been made public by law. That is not the case, as the pharmaceutical industry seems to oppose such transparency. Of course, this is

done under the guise of eliminating burdens on businesses. The truth is never clearly stated.

And Bill 160 (which Wynne and Ford never fully enacted), would have forced disclosure of payments when it came to pushing medications. It's been in limbo since 2017. Have to wonder who they really work for.

(1) http://lobbyist.oico.on.ca/Pages/Public/PublicSearch/
(2) https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/advSrch
(3) https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/advSrch?V_SEARCH.command=navigate&time=1623728162394
(4) https://archive.is/cZVsT
(5) https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-sampson/
(6) https://www.linkedin.com/in/melissalantsman/
(7) https://archive.is/VsG0V
(8) https://www.linkedin.com/in/katieheelis/
(9) https://archive.is/GIOQ0
(10) https://www.linkedin.com/in/abidmalikto/
(11) https://archive.is/7P9lC
(12) https://www.linkedin.com/in/carly-martin/
(13) https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-132#BK14
(14) https://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/stat/rso-1990-c-o10/132589/rso-1990-c-o10.html
(15) https://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/stat/rso-1990-c-o10/latest/rso-1990-c-o10.html

- B.C. Pharmacy Association
- Capital Hill Group
- Counsel Public Affairs
- Counsel Public Affairs (Again)
- Counsel Public Affairs (Yet Again)
- Crestview Strategy
- Ensight Canada
- Loyalist Public Affairs
- Rubicon Strategy
- Wellington Advocacy

CANADA, CANADIAN BILLS, DRUGS/ALCOHOL, GLOBALISM, HEALTH, LOBBYING, NGO/CS, VACCINES

One Reply to “Ontario Pharmacists Association: Getting Handouts From Ford, As They Push Bills 160/132”

eddy canuck

JUNE 16, 2021 AT 1:12 PM

Good summary. And Lantsman is also nominated for CPC in Thornhill – following retirement of Peter Kent. She is already being accepted as IN HIS SEAT – see his RT.

https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/Peter-Kent(35699)
https://twitter.com/MelissaLantsman/status/1404482967808970759?s=20